

What is claimed is:

1. An image transmission apparatus that sends to specified recipients image data awaiting transmission after subjecting such data to image processing consisting of one or more operations, said image transmission apparatus comprising:

multiple task processors that are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations;

a designating unit that designates the image processing operation(s) to be performed;

a controller that, where multiple recipients are specified with regard to the image data and different image processing operations are specified for the different recipients, controls each task processor such that the n th operation is executed in common for the recipients for which all operations up to the n th operation are identical; and

a transmission unit that transmits to the specified recipients image data that has undergone all of the image processing operations.

2. An image transmission apparatus that sends to specified recipients image data awaiting transmission after subjecting such data to image processing consisting of one or more operations, said image transmission apparatus comprising:

an image data storage unit that stores the image data for which transmission has been requested;

multiple task processors that are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations;

a designating unit that designates the image processing operation(s) to be performed to the image data stored in the image data storage unit;

a controller that, where some of the image processing operations designated for each of the multiple units of image data stored in the image data storage unit are identical, controls each task processor such that the subsequent operations for each unit of image data are performed after such data has undergone the shared operations; and

a transmission unit that transmits to the specified recipients the image data that has undergone all of the image processing operations.

3. An image transmission apparatus that sends to specified recipients image data awaiting transmission after subjecting such data to image processing, said image transmission apparatus comprising:

an image data storage unit that stores the image data for which transmission has been requested;

an image processor that executes the image processing;

a designating unit that designates the contents of the image processing to be executed for the image data stored in the image data storage unit;

a processing burden estimation unit that, where multiple units of image data are stored in the image data storage unit, divides the image data stored in the image data storage unit into groups by recipient and estimates for each group the processing burden of executing the image processing of the grouped image data;

a controller that controls the image processor such that the image data undergoes the specified image processing in order from the group having the smallest estimated processing burden as estimated by the processing burden estimation unit to the group having the largest estimated processing burden; and

a transmission unit that transmits to the specified recipients the image data that has undergone all of the image processing operations.

4. The image transmission apparatus of claim 3, wherein the image processor includes multiple task processors that are respectively responsible for executing the one or more image processing operations, the designating unit designates the contents of the image processing by combining one or more operations, and the processing burden estimation unit estimates the processing burden of executing the image processing based on the operations that describe the contents of the image processing.

5. A control method for an image transmission apparatus that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein multiple task processors are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations, said control method comprising the steps of:

designating the image processing operation to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission;

where multiple recipients are specified for the image data awaiting transmission, and different image processing operations are specified for the different recipients, controlling each task processor such that the n th operation is executed in common for the recipients for which all the operations up to the n th operation are identical; and

transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

6. A control method for an image transmission apparatus that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein multiple task processors are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations, said control method comprising the steps of:

storing the image data awaiting transmission in an image data storage unit;

designating the image processing operation(s) to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission that is stored in the image data storage unit;

where some of the image processing operations designated for each of the multiple units of image data awaiting transmission and stored in the image data storage unit are identical, controlling each task processor such that the subsequent operations for each unit of image data awaiting transmission are performed after such data has undergone the shared operations; and transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

7. A control method for an image transmission apparatus that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein such image processing is executed by an image processor, said control method comprising the steps of:

storing the image data awaiting transmission in an image data storage unit;

designating the contents of the image processing to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission that is stored in the image data storage unit;

where multiple units of image data awaiting transmission are stored in the image data storage unit, dividing the image data awaiting transmission into groups by recipient and estimating for each group the processing burden of executing the image processing of the all grouped image data awaiting transmission;

controlling the image processor such that the image data awaiting transmission undergoes the specified image processing in order from the group having the smallest estimated processing burden as estimated by the processing burden estimation unit to the group having the largest estimated processing burden; and

transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

8. A computer program that is used on a computer that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein multiple task processors are respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations, said computer program causes the computer to execute the following operations:

designating the image processing operation to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission;

where multiple recipients are specified for the image data awaiting transmission, and different image processing operations are specified for the different recipients, controlling each task processor such that the n th operation is executed in common for the recipients for which all the operations up to the n th operation are identical; and

transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

9. A recording medium that stores said computer program of claim 8 therein.

10. A computer program that is used on a computer that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein multiple task processors are

respectively responsible for executing one or more of the image processing operations, said computer program causes the computer to execute the following operations:

storing the image data awaiting transmission in an image data storage unit;

designating the image processing operation(s) to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission that is stored in the image data storage unit;

where some of the image processing operations designated for each of the multiple units of image data awaiting transmission and stored in the image data storage unit are identical, controlling each task processor such that the subsequent operations for each unit of image data awaiting transmission are performed after such data has undergone the shared operations; and transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

11. A recording medium that stores said computer program of claim 10 therein.

12. A computer program that is used on a computer that transmits to specified recipients image data that has been subjected to image processing, wherein such image processing is executed by an image processor, said computer program causes the computer to execute the following operations:

storing the image data awaiting transmission in an image data storage unit;

designating the contents of the image processing to be performed to the image data awaiting transmission that is stored in the image data storage unit;

where multiple units of image data awaiting transmission are stored in the image data storage unit, dividing the image data awaiting transmission into groups by recipient and

estimating for each group the processing burden of executing the image processing of the grouped image data awaiting transmission;

controlling the image processor such that the image data awaiting transmission undergoes the specified image processing in order from the group having the smallest estimated processing burden as estimated by the processing burden estimation unit to the group having the largest estimated processing burden; and

transmitting to the specified recipients the image data awaiting transmission as to which all of the image processing operations have been performed.

13. A recording medium that stores said computer program of claim 12 therein.